

Appl. No. 10/013,097
Reply Filed: November 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 17, 2004

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of May 17, 2004, the Applicant submits this Reply. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-12 remain in this application, of which claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 are independent. No fee is due for claims for this amendment. In the foregoing amendments, claims 1-12 have been amended and claims 13-16 have been cancelled. In the Office Action, claims 1-16 were rejected.

Amendments to the Specification and Drawing

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, a reminder was given about the proper language and format for the abstract. No specific objection was made. It is unclear to the Applicant what, if anything, is objectionable in the abstract. Accordingly, no changes have been made to the abstract in this Reply.

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action identifies and requires correction of an informality at page 4, line 15. The foregoing amendments correct this informality. The Office Action also required correction to "any other informalities existing in the disclosure." The Applicant has located and corrected other informalities.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, drawings corresponding to the features of the claim were required. Figure 3 has been amended to indicate that the data may include evolved property definitions (labeled "EPD") and synthesized property definitions (labeled "SPD").

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, drawing corrections were required. The foregoing amendments provide the required correction to Fig. 2 by adding the reference numeral "212." Fig. 3 already included reference numeral "318" in the lower right of the drawing.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

In paragraphs 5-6 of the Office Action, claims 1, 7, 4 and 10 were objected to because the Examiner stated that it was not clear what certain clauses in the claims referred to.

As a preliminary matter, the Applicant notes that the Office Action asserts that the claims are not clear. Whether a claim is deemed to be clear is not an issue under the first paragraph of Section 112. Further, the language used in the original claims was identical to the language used

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on page 12 of the specification. Therefore, a written description of the claims is explicitly provided. Thus, it appears to the Applicant that the question raised in the Office Action falls under the second paragraph of Section 112, instead of the first paragraph.

In claims 1 and 7, the clause "that is different from a corresponding property" referred to "each property" and not the "first implementation" because one determines whether a property is different from a property instead of whether a property is different from an implementation. Nonetheless, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to clarify that an evolved property definition is specified "for each object having a property in the first implementation that is different from a corresponding property of a corresponding object in the second implementation."

In claims 4 and 10, the clause "that lacks a corresponding property definition" referred to "each property" and not "the first implementation" because one determines whether a property is different from a property instead of whether a property is different from an implementation. Nonetheless, claims 4 and 10 have been amended to clarify that a synthesize property definition is specified "for each object having a property in the first implementation for which a corresponding object in the second implementation lacks a corresponding property."

It is respectfully submitted that these amendments and arguments overcome any rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, whether under the first or second paragraph.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-12, of which claims 1, 4, 7 and 10, are independent, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of U.S. Patent 6,199,130 ("Nguyen"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to *Nguyen*, a data format conversion unit 184 (Fig. 1b) "performs the conversion process by creating a target instance that corresponds to the stored instance, but in which the data is stored in the target format." *Nguyen*, Col. 10, lines 35-38. To perform this process, *Nguyen* teaches using schema version table. See Col. 8 and Figs. 3b and 4b (element 316).

The claims as amended are distinguished from *Nguyen*, at least by reciting that "evolved property definitions" (claims 1 and 7) or "synthesized property definitions" are "added as a property of the object." See this application at page 7, lines 1-7.

Accordingly, the rejection is traversed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this reply, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0876.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

ANNOTATED Sheet

Fig. 2

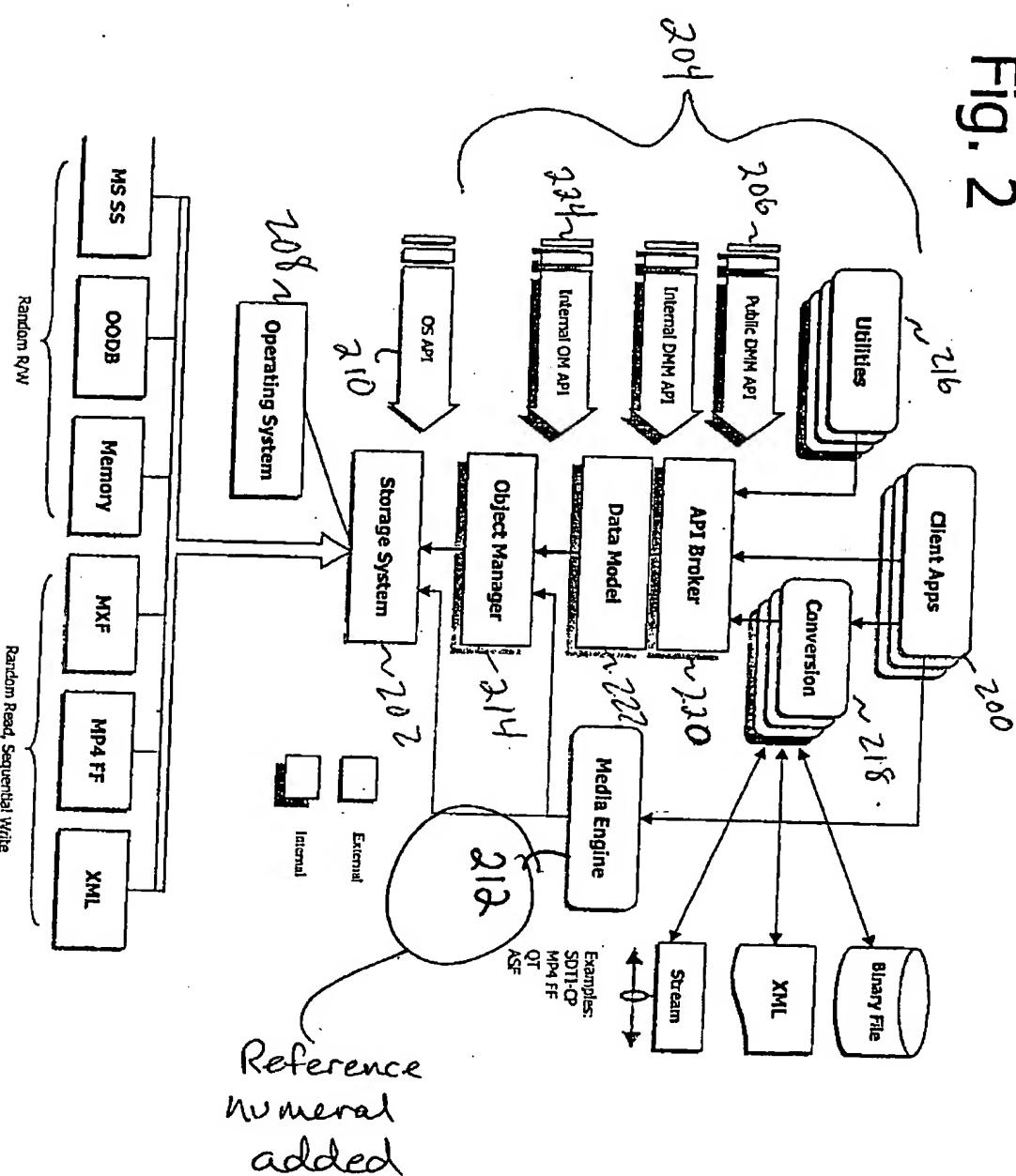


Fig. 3

